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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 20, 2003

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The Honorable Michael K. Powell
 Chairman
 Federal Communications Commission
 445 12th Street, S.W.
 Washington, D.C. 20554

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Dear Chairman Powell:

I understand that the Commission's extensive review pertaining to its broadcast ownership and cross-ownership rules is nearing completion. I write to express my interest in seeing the Commission proceed forward on this matter expeditiously and without any additional extraneous procedures.

I believe that the Commission has done an excellent job of developing a full and complete record necessary to take action on this matter. The extensive comment period and breadth of the comments received should provide adequate and sufficient perspectives from all sides of the issue. This work also complements the numerous efforts reviewing the ownership and cross-ownership rules conducted over the last few years. Given this, I would suggest that expending additional Commission resources on this matter may be inappropriate, as other important issues remain for Commission consideration.

Substantively, the Commission's media ownership rules were designed in response to a prior media marketplace that has changed significantly over the years. Notwithstanding its statutory or court mandated obligations, the Commission has a responsibility to adjust or repeal outdated rules to reflect the current state of competition and the proliferation of media opportunities in our nation. Simply put, rules governing media ownership must be based on real market situations, rather than potential or hypothetical scenarios. Should the Commission choose to leave in place limitations on broadcast ownership, I would hope that, at a minimum, the Commission will bring consistency and uniform definitions to any remaining regulations.

I look forward to Commission action in the immediate future, and I ask to be kept fully abreast of the Commission's activities involving this matter.

Sincerely,



John E. Sununu
 United States Senator

cc: Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy
 Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein
 Commissioner Michael J. Copps
 Commissioner Kevin J. Martin

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